

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6620
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USDOEHQ WASHDC
USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 05016

USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT
DOE PASS AMMONS, IA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IAEA, AORG, PORG
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN CANDIDACY FOR IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1. SUMMARY. PAKISTAN RESREP TO IAEA (SATTAR) TOLD ME
ON INSTURCTIONS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING PUTTING
FORWARD PAKISTAN'S CANDIDACY FOR FLOATING IAEA BOARD
SEAT FOR NEXT YEAR, WITH VIEW TO PROPOSING PAKISTAN
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION HEAD MUNIR KHAN AS IAEA BOARD
CHAIRMAN FOR 1978-79. HE ASKED US REACTION. END SUMMARY.

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2. BOARD SEAT IN QUESTION WAS CREATED FIVE YEARS AGO
AND RESERVED FOR AFRICAN, MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA,
AND SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PACIFIC. SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS NOT
RPT NOT HAD A TURN YET AND THAILAND HAS ADVANCED ITS
CANDIDACY. SATTAR SAID PAKISTANIS WERE APPROACHING
BANGKOK TO SEE IF THAIS WILLING TO DEFER THEIR CANDIDACY.
PAKISTAN IS WILLING TO PLEDGE THAT THEY WILL RELINQUISH

THEIR SEAT AFTER ONE YEAR (NORMAL TERM IS TWO YEARS),
SUPPORT THAILAND FOR THE SEAT IN 1979 AND EVEN PLEDGE
NOT RPT NOT TO SEEK ANY BOARD SEAT IN 1979 OR 1980. IF
THAIS DO NOT RPT NOT AGREE TO DEFER THEIR CANDIDACY,
PAKISTAN WILL NOT RPT NOT ADVANCE ITS OWN CANDIDACY.

3. CHAIRMANSHIP OF IAEA BOARD FOR 1978-79 DUE TO GO
TO REPRESENTATIVE OF MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA ACCOR-
DING TO NORMAL ROTATION. OF THE FOUR STATES FROM THIS AREA
EXPECTED TO BE ON BOARD IN 1978-79: INDIA HAS SERVED
IN RECENT PAST; SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF F
BOARD MEMBERSHIP (CHAIRMANSHIP NORMALLY GOES TO COUNTRY
IN ITS SECOND YEAR ON BOARD) AND HAS, ACCORDING TO
SATTAR, SHOWN NO INTEREST IN CHAIRMANSHIP; KUWAIT HAS
SHOWN NO RPT NO INTEREST (AND OFTEN FAILS EVEN TO ATTEND
BOARD MEETINGS); AND IRAN'S PRESIDENT OF THE ATOMIC
ENERGY ORGANIZATION ETEMAD, THE LOGICAL CANDIDATE, IS,
ACCORDING TO SATTAR'S INFORMATION, NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED.
PAKISTANIS WILL CONFIRM THIS LATTER POINT WITH ETEMAD.
IF HE DESIRES THE POSITION, PAKISTANIS WILL DROP THEIR
CANDIDACY FOR THE JOB AND FOR THE BOARD.

4. SATTAR SAID HE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT APPROACH TO
US BE DEFERRED UNTIL PAKISTAN HAD REACTIONS FROM
THAILAND AND ETEMAD, BUT HE HAD BEEN OVERRULED, AS
ISLAMABAD WOULD TAKE US VIEWS INTO SERIOUS ACCOUNT AND
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DID NOT RPT NOT WANT TO AWAIT RESULTS OF THEIR APPROACHES
TO BANGKOK AND ETEMAD. SATTAR, THEREFORE, REQUESTED
OUR VIEWS AND SAID HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED OF THAI
AND IRANIAN REACTIONS.

5. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT US WOULD NOT RPT NOT
OBJECT TO MUNIR KHAN AS CHAIRMAN OF BOARD BUT WOULD
CERTAINLY NOT RPT NOT WANT TO SEEM TO BE FAVORING
HIM OVER ETEMAD, OR FAVORING PAKISTAN OVER THAILAND
FOR THE BOARD SEAT. THEREFORE, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT
WE BE AUTHORIZED SIMPLY TO TELL SATTAR THAT WE WOULD
LIKE TO HEAR HIS REPORT OF THAI AND IRANIAN VIEWS
BEFORE TAKING ANY POSITION. WE WOULD SUGGEST DOUBLE-
CHECKING WITH BANGKOK AND TEHRAN AFTER WE HEAR FROM
SATTAR, BUT NOT RPT NOT MAKING APPROACHES NOW, TO
AVOID ANY IMPRESSION THAT US WAS SPONSORING PAKISTAN
CANDIDACY. END COMMENT. KIRK

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